



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES  
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**National Plan Released for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease**  
*52 Weeks of Public Health Campaign Spotlight: Reducing the Burden of COPD*

**FRANKFORT, Ky.** (June 12, 2017) – As part of the 52 Weeks of Public Health campaign, the Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH) within the Cabinet of Health and Family Services (CHFS) highlights the first ever COPD National Action Plan.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, or COPD, is the third leading cause of death in the United States, affecting 16 million Americans and millions more who do not know they have it. **Kentucky has the second highest incidence of COPD in the nation.** COPD can stifle a person's ability to breathe, lead to long-term disability, and dramatically affect his or her quality of life. Also known as emphysema or chronic bronchitis, it is a serious lung disease.

Kentucky Department for Public Health staff along with state champions have formed a COPD Advisory Board to increase overall awareness of COPD and direct activities and policy to reduce the burden of COPD in Kentucky. "The first step in dealing with COPD is acknowledging that the problem exists," said Dr. David M. Mannino, M.D., chair of the KY COPD Advisory Board. "Targeting COPD's risk factors, detecting disease earlier and optimal treatment of existing disease to minimize its complications are achievable."

Broken into five goals, each goal of the Action Plan is designed to address a different aspect of COPD so that the entire spectrum of complex issues related to the disease is covered.

- 1: Empower patients, their families, and caregivers to recognize and reduce the burden of COPD
- 2: Equip health care professionals to provide comprehensive care to people with COPD
- 3: Collect, analyze, report, and disseminate COPD data
- 4: Increase and sustain COPD research
- 5: Turn COPD recommendations into research and public health care actions

Throughout the planned 52 Weeks of Public Health promotion, DPH will spotlight a specific public health issue. Additional information about the campaign is available on the DPH website: <http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/default.htm> and will be posted on the CHFS Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/kychfs> where Kentuckians are encouraged to like and share posts among their networks of friends.

*The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is home to most of the state's human services and healthcare programs, including the Department for Medicaid Services, the Department for Community Based Services, the Department for Public Health, and the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. CHFS is one of the largest agencies in state government, with nearly 8,000 full- and part-time employees located across the Commonwealth focused on improving the lives and health of Kentuckians.*